

**PATENT**

Docket No.: 1743/231

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Hiroyoshi ANDO

SERIAL NO. : (Con. of 09/811,714)

FILED : (Herewith)

FOR : SERVICE METHOD, SERVICE SYSTEM AND  
MANUFACTURING/INSPECTION APPARATUS

ART UNIT : 2125 (Anticipated)

EXAMINER : S. P. Shechtman (Anticipated)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1: Before the first line insert: --This is a continuation of application number 09/811,714 filed 19 March 2001, which claims priority to Japanese 2000-254497 filed 24 August 2000, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. --

Please replace paragraph 12 starting on page 6, line 16 to page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] Here, it is possible to connect in direct the control computer of the apparatus to the communication network to give permission, namely to operate the user support system, but it is desirable from the viewpoint of security to avoid direct connection of the apparatus control computer storing the user information to the external communication network. In usual

Usually, an exclusive server is installed for connection with the external communication network, but it is difficult to say that the environment connected for the communication is safe even if any measure is provided against the invasion of hackers.